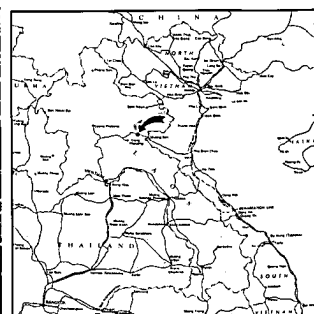
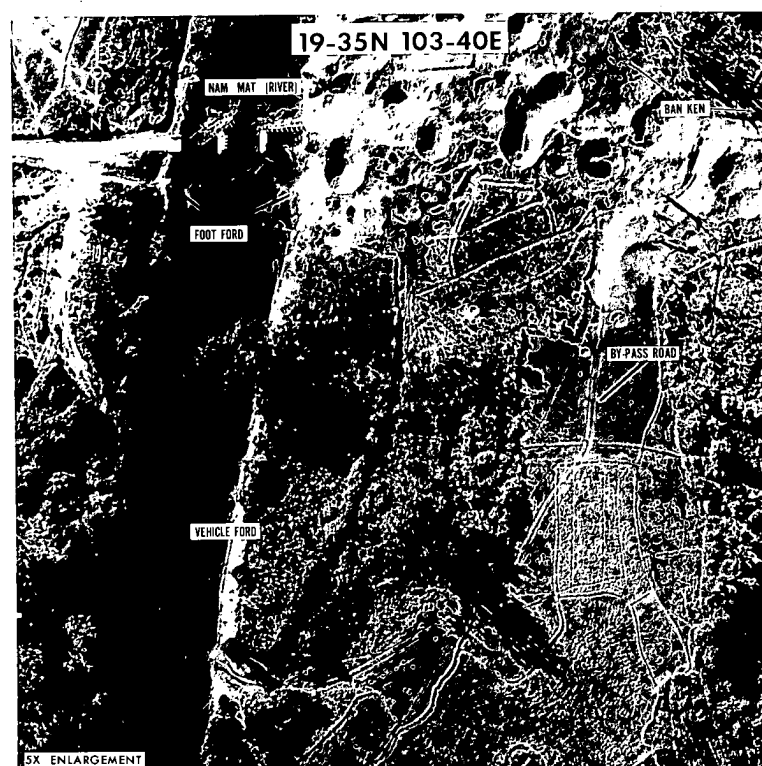
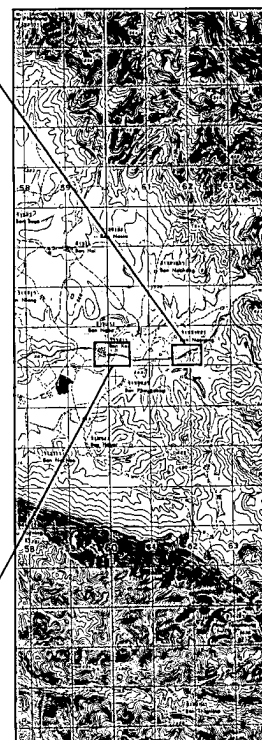
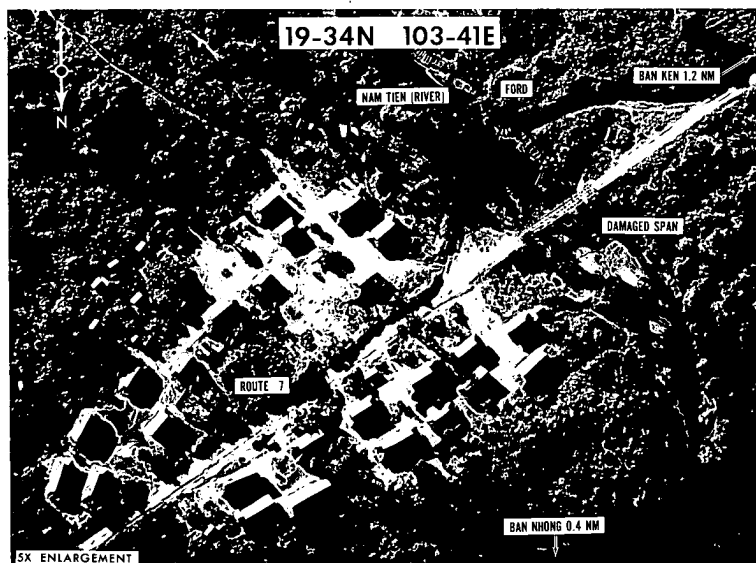


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HIGHWAY BRIDGES, ROUTE 7 BAN KEN AREA, LAOS



NPIC J.7291 (1/65)

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22 JANUARY 1965
PAGE 2HSA
WB
RSHIGHWAY BRIDGES, ROUTE 7
BAN KEN AREA, LAOS

(SEE NPIC BRIEFING BOARDS J-6228, J-7250, AND J-7252 FOR COMPARISON)

1. TWO HIGHWAY BRIDGES ARE OBSERVED IN THE BAN KEN AREA, THE FIRST JUST EAST OF BAN KEN AT 1935N 10340E AND THE SECOND, ONE NM EAST OF BAN KEN AT 1934N 10341E.

2. a) COLLATERAL REPORTS THAT IN 1956 A FERRY CROSSING WAS LOCATED ON THE NAM MAT (RIVER) JUST EAST OF BAN KEN. AT THAT TIME THE RIVER WAS REPORTED AS BEING FORDABLE FROM LATE NOVEMBER THROUGH MAY.

b) [REDACTED] REVEALED A HIGHWAY BRIDGE OVER THE NAM MAT (RIVER) ON ROUTE 7, JUST EAST OF BAN KEN. THE BRIDGE WAS A THREE SPAN, HALF-THROUGH TRUSS, PROBABLE STEEL WITH WOODEN PLANKING.

c) POST-STRIKE PHOTOGRAPHY OF [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] REVEALED THE BRIDGE OVER THE NAM MAT (RIVER) DESTROYED WITH ONLY THE PIERS REMAINING. THE SPANS WERE OBSERVED LYING IN THE RIVER BED. NUMEROUS BOMB CRATERS WERE OBSERVED JUST WEST OF THE DESTROYED BRIDGE INTER-DICTING ROUTE 7. THE RIVER APPEARED FORDABLE.

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a) THIS MISSION [] []

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REVEALS A BY-PASS ROAD LEADING FROM ROUTE 7 TO A
VEHICLE FORD JUST NORTH OF THE DESTROYED BRIDGE.
A FOOT FORD IS ALSO OBSERVED ACROSS THE RIVER.

3. a) PRE-STRIKE PHOTOGRAPHY OF [] []

25X1

[] REVEALED A HIGHWAY BRIDGE OVER THE
NAM TIEN (RIVER) ON ROUTE 7, 0.4 NM SOUTH-SOUTHEAST
OF BAN NHONG AND 1.0 NM EAST OF BAN KEN. THE
BRIDGE WAS A THREE SPAN, HALF-THROUGH TRUSS PROBABLE
STEEL WITH WOODEN PLANKING.

25X1

b) POST-STRIKE PHOTOGRAPHY OF [] []

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[] REVEALED A CLOUD OF SMOKE RISING FROM
THE AREA OF THE BRIDGE. THE HEAVY SMOKE PREVENTED A
DAMAGE ASSESSMENT. THE RIVER WAS OBSERVED TO BE
FORDABLE AT A NUMBER OF LOCATIONS.

X1

c) THIS MISSION [] []

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REVEALS THE EASTERN SPAN OF THE BRIDGE OVER THE NAM
TIEN (RIVER) PARTIALLY DAMAGED. THE BRIDGE IS SERVICE-
ABLE FOR FOOT TRAFFIC. A FORD JUST SOUTH OF THE DAMAGED
BRIDGE MAKES ROUTE 7 PASSABLE TO VEHICULAR TRAFFIC.

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4. THE AREA HAS BEEN PREVIOUSLY COVERED BY NUMEROUS [REDACTED]
LAZY DAISY, LUCKY DRAGON, TROJAN HORSE, AND [REDACTED] MISSIONS.

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